



Tarltons newes

out of Purgatorie.

Onely such a leſt as his ligge, ſit for Gen-
tlemen to laugh at an houre, &c.

Publiſhed by an old Companion of his,
Robin Goodfellow.



AT LONDON,
Printed for T. G. and T. N. 1590.

The Contents of the whole booke.

The tale of Pope Boniface, and why he wore a Mil-
lers cap, and a malkin in Purgatorie. fol. 4

What kind of men those be that God neuer made. 6

What creatures those be, that in sight are Carnati-
ons, in smell Roses, in hearing Syrens, in touching

Nettles, and in tast wormewood. 9

What occupations take more paines about God,
then die Pope. 10

The tale of Fryer Onyon, why in Purgatorie he was
tormented with Waspes. 13

The tale of the three Cuckolds, of their Impresses, &
Mottoes. 21

The tale of the Cooke, and why he sate in Purgato-
rie with a Cranes leg in his mouth. 22

The tale of the Vickar of Bergamo, and why hee sirs
with a coale in his mouth in Purgatorie. 29

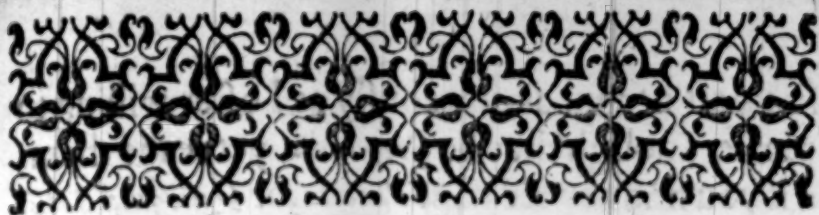
The tale of the Painter of Doncaster, & why in Pur-
gatorie he was beaten with a bell rope. 33

Why the gentlewoman of Lyons sate with hir haire
clipt off in Purgatorie. 38

The tale of two Louers of Pisa, and why they were
whipt in Purgatorie with Nettles. 42

AT LONDON,

Printed for T. G. and T. C. 1550.



To the Gentlemen Readers,

Health.



Entlemen, the Horse when hee is first handed to the warres, starteth at the cracke of euery peece; and euery coucht Launce is a censure of death to a fresh water Souldier: So fareth it with mee, for neuer before being in print I start at the sight of the Presse, and ha- uing not dared to looke into the open light, I feared with the Owle to fly before it be twylight: yet I haue heard others whose bookes haue past your view, account you so fauorable, curteous and affable, shrou- ding euery scape with silence; that I presumed the rather to experience with them the hope of your fa- uours: which if I finde as they haue done, though I bee blinde Bayard, yet I will in the thickest of the mire plunge vp to the Saddle for your sakes. Virgill afore he wrote his *Aeneidos*, wrote his *Culex*; and as- saide in trifles, afore he attempted in Triumphs. Lu- can wrote *Quedam Lirica*, before he began with *Bel- lum per Emathios plusquam Ciuilia campos*. Roome was not builded on a day, and men that venter little, ha- zard little: So gentlemen, I present you with a toy of Tarltons, called his newes out of Purgatory; which I

desire you accept as curteously as I offer willing to
to please: Though they be *Crepundia* yet reade them,
and if you find any pleasant *Facetia*, or *Quicquid Salis*
thinke all sauory, and so please without being satiri-
cally peremptory: for Momus will haue a mouth full
of inuectiues, and Zoilus should not be Zoilus if hee
were not squint eide. Therefore leauing their hu-
mours to the wordmongers of mallice that like the
Vipers grew odious to their owne kinde, hoping of
your curteous censure, I bid you farewell.

Tarltons newes

out of Purgatorie.



Drawing as most men doe
for the death of Richard
Tarlton, in that his particu-
lar losse was a generall la-
ment to all that coneted, ei-
ther to satissie their eies
with his Clownish gesture,
or their eares with his wit-
ty iests. The wonted desire
to see plaies left me, in that
although I sawe as rare

shewes, and heard as lofty verse, yet I inioied not those
wonted sports that flowed from him as from a fountain,
of pleasing and merry conceits. For although he was or-
ly superficially scene in learning, hauing no more but a
bare insight into the Latine tongue, yet hee had such a
prompt witte, that he seemed to haue that Salem ingenij,
which Tullie so highly commends in his Orator. Well,
howsoeuer either naturall, or artificiall, or both, he was
a mad merry companion, desired and loued of all: amongst
the rest of whose welwishers my selfe being not the least,
after his death I mourned in conceit, and absented my
selfe from all plaies, as wanting that merry Roscius of
Plaiers, that famozed all Comedies so with his pleasant
and extempozall inuention: yet at last, as the longest
Sommers day hath his night, so this dumpe had an ende:
and forsooth vpon whitson monday last I would needs to
the Theatre to see a play: where when I came, I founde
such concourse of vnruely people, that I thought it better
solitary to walke in the fieldes, then to intermeddle my
selfe amongst such a great presse. Feeding mine humour
with

With this fancie I slept by dame Anne of Clères well, & went by the backside of Hogsdon: where finding the Sun to bee hot, and seeing a faire tree that had a coole shade, I late me downe to take the aire, where after I had rested me a while I fell a sleepe: As thus I lay in a slumber, mee thought I saw one attired in russet with a buttone cap on his head, a great bagge by his side, and a strong bat in his hand, so artificially attyred for a Clowne, as I began to call Tarltons wonted shape to remembrance, as he drew more nere and hee came within the compasse of mine eie, to iudge it was no other but the very ghost of Richard Tarlton, which pale and wan late him down by me on the grasse. I that knewe him to be deade at this sodaine sight fell into a great feare, insomuch that I swet in my sleepe: which he perceiuing, with his wonted countenance full of smiles began to comfort me thus. What olde acquaintance, a man or a mouse? Hast thou not heard me veresse, that a Souldier is a souldier if he haue but a blew hose on his head? Feare not me man, I am but Dick Tarlton that coulde quaint it in the Court, and clowne it on the stage: that had a quart of wine for my friend, and a sword for my foe: who hurt none beeing alieue, and will not preiudice any being dead: for although thou see me here in the likeness of a spirite, yet thinke mee to bee one of those Familiars Lares that were rather pleasantly disposed then indued with any hurtfull influence, as Hob Thrust, Robin Goodfellowe and such like spirites (as they terme them of the buttry) famozed in euerie olde wines Chronicle for their mad merry pranches. Therefore sith my appearance to thee is in resemblance of a spirite, thinke that I am as pleasant a goblin as the rest, and will make thee as merry before I part, as euer Robin Goodfellow made the country wenches at their Creame boules. With this he drew more neere me and I starting backe cried out: In nomine Iesu, auoid Sathan for Ghost thou art none, but a very diuel (for the soules of them which are departed) if the sacred

principles of Theologie bee true) neuer returne into the
 world againe till the generall resurrection: for either are
 they placst in heauen, from whence they come not to in-
 tangle themselues with other cares, but sit continually
 before the seate of the Lambe singing Alleluia to the high-
 est, or else they are in hell: and this is a profound and cer-
 tain Aphorisme, Ab inferis nulla est redemptio: vpon these
 conclusiue premisses depart from mee Satan the resem-
 blance of whom soeuer thou dost carry. At this pitching
 his staffe downe on the end, & crossing one leg ouer an o-
 ther, he answered thus: why you horseon dunce, think you
 to set Dick Tarlton Non plus with your Aphorismes? No,
 I haue yet left one chapter of choplodgicke to te wllite you
 withall, that were you as good as George a Græne I
 would not take the soile at your hands: and that is this, I
 perceiue by your arguments your inward opinion, and by
 your wise discretiō what pottage you loue: I see no sooner
 a rispe at the howse end or a Paipole before the doore, but
 I cry there is, a paltrie Alehowse: and as soone as I heare
 the principles of your religion, I can say, oh there is a
 Calvinist: what doe you make heauen and hell Contraria
 immediata, so contrarie, that there is no meane betwixt
 them, but that either a mans soule must in post hast goe
 presently to God, or else with a whirlewind and a venge-
 ance goe to the diuell: yes, yes my good brother, there is
 Quoddam tertium a third place that all our great grand-
 mothers haue talkt of, that Dant hath so learnedly writ
 of, and that is Purgatorie. What say are we wiser then
 all our forefathers? and they not onely feared that place in
 life, but found it after their death: or els was there much
 land and annuall pensions giuen in vaine to morrow-
 malle priests for dirges, trentals and such like decretals of
 deuotion, whereby the soules in Purgatorie were the so-
 ner aduanced into the quiet estate of heauen. Nay more,
 how many Popes & holy Bishops of Rome, whose Cānons
 anctot erre, haue taught vs what this Purgatorie is: And
 yet

yet if thou wert so incredulous that thou wouldest nei-
ther belæue our olde beldames, nor the good Bilhops: yet
take Dicke Tarlton once for thine Authoz, who is nowe
come from Purgatorie, and if any bystart Protestant de-
nie, if thou hast no place of scripture ready to confirme it,
say as Pithagoras schollers did (Ipse dixit) and to all bon
companions it shall stand for a principle. I coulde not but
smile at the madde merry doctrine of my friend Richard,
and therefore taking heart at grasse drawing more nere
him, I praied him to tell me what Purgatorie is, & what
they be that are resident there: as one willing to doe mee
such a fauour, he sate him downe and began thus.

¶ Tarltons description of
Purgatorie.



After thy breath hath left thy body, and thy
soule is set free from this vile prison of
earth, where it hath been long inclosed, then
doth it wander forward into a faire broade
way, where at the turning of a crosse there
are three passages, one on the right hand, and that is very
narrow and leadeth vnto heauen: The second on the left
hand, is broad and faire, ouer a greene vale, and that
conducteth vnto hell: now betwixt these is there a lane
neither to broade nor to narrow, and that is the hie way
to Purgatorie: wherin after you haue wandered a while,
you come to a bridge, framed all of Needle points and
ouer that must you passe bare footed, as the first penance
for your formost offences. Then sir to haue a little ease
after that sharpe absolution, shall you come into a faire
medow, and that is all ouergrowne with Aue maries
and creedes, this is to put you in remembrance of our
Ladies Psalter, which if you can say a hundred & fifty
times ouer before you passe the meadow, you escape pas-
sing ouer a whole field of hot burning ploughshares, that
day

day and night lie glowing hot for such purposes: after these and a many moe of other miseries, which I am by the law forbidden to utter, you come to purgatorie gate, where for an entring penny, you haue forty lathes with a whip as ill as euer were giuen in *Widewell*: then are you admitted entrance. At the first you shall come into a very sumptuous hall, richelie hanged with tapistrie, so fine and so curious, that the most cutthroate *Broaker* in *England* would take the worst of the hangings for a sufficient pawne: In this hall shall you see an infinite number of seates, formed and seated like an *Amphitheater*: wherein are roially, nay more then roially placed all the *Popes*, except the first thirty after *Christ*, and they went presentlie to heauen: and the reason was, because *Purgatorie* was then but a building, and not fully finished. In those seates I say the popes sit triumphantlie with their pontificalibus, and their triple crownes, but yet abiding paines of purgatorie, as well as the meanest in all the house, equally proportioned according to the measure of their sinnes: some for false wresting the scriptures, others for ambition, some for couetousnesse, gluttonie, extortion, symonie, wrath, pride, enuie, many for sloth, and idlenesse: and some I can tell you haue come thither for wenching matters, thats counted in *Rome* but a veniall sinne, and therefore three dirges and two tapers offered to the picture of old *Palquille*, is sufficient to wipe away so small an offence. But amongst all the rest two of them made me to maruell at the strangenesse of the punishment: The first was *Boniface* the fourth, and he sat in this order.

He was richly attired in his pontificalibus, and somewhat more rich then the rest, but vpon his head, in stead of his triple crowne, he wore a dustie millers cap: and whereas other *Popes* held in their right hand the keyes of heauen, and in the left the sword of *Paule*, he held betwene both his hands a durtie malkin, such as *Bakers* sweepe

sweepe their Duens withall, and right ouer his head
was witten this old adage in Latin :

Ne futor ultra crepidam.

And because thou shalt know the reason why we was
thus punished,marke this merry tale. .

The tale of Pope Boniface, and why he wore
a Millers cap, and a malkin in
purgatorie.



Here dwelled sometime in the cite of Rome
a Baker, named Astasio, who for his honest
behaviour was well accounted of amongst
his neighbours, insomuch, that what life so-
euer his bread was baked after, his loaves
neuer past the ballance. This Astasio had sundry pzen-
tises and iourneymen to do his businesse, for he was cheefe
Baker to the popes holinesse: amongst whome there was
one called Miles, who was a strong lusty lubber, and one
that was as ripe conceived for knauerie, as the Miller
that ground their meale for theuery, & had as many good
conditions, as his mistresse had points of chastitie, and she
was thought a vertuous matron: for a Cardinall lay in
her house, to instruct her with holy sentences, and where
such blessed men lie, there can be no lecherie. Well Miles
was a mad wagge, and when he had done his businesse,
to exercise his wits would diuerse times resort to some
one or other of the cloister of puns, amongst these merry
wenches, to put in practise the excellencie of his prattle,
he so behaued himselfe, that if higher fortune had not fal-
len him, the puns of Santa Maria had intreated their ab-
besse to haue made him their fac totum: but to his grea-
ter dignitie, thus it fell out. It chaunced that Pope Pi-
us fell sicke, and for that he knew Cardinals were ambi-
tious, and would flie with Icarus whatsoeuer befall, to a-
uoid all mutinies that might insue after his death about
the

the succession, of the Papacie: he called his Cardinals together, and charged them to elect none Pope, but he that could absolue these three questions.

1 What kinde of men those bee, that G O D neuer made.

2 What creatures those be, that in sight are Carnations, in smell Roses, in hearing Syrens, in touch Nettles, and in taste Wormewood.

3 And what occupations take more paines about God then the Pope.

Upon these the Cardinalls were agreed and went home to their seuerall lodging, leaving Pius wel contented with their mutuall consent, & resolved to die, sith he had so well determined of the succession of the papacye to bee brieft, as euery dogge hath his day, so the Pope had his date, for the next morning hee died. And vpon this there was a generall mourning through all Rome, the Cardinalls wept, the Abbots howled, the Monks rozed, the fryers cryed, the Nuns puled, the Curtizans lamented, the bells rang, and the tapers were lighted, that such a blacke Sanctus was not seene along time afoze in Rome: wel to be shott, his funerals were solemnly kept, and his body caried from Castle Angelo to Saint Peters Church and there intombed. After his death euery one of the Cardinals aspiring to the papacie, pondzed in his bzaine the meaning of these questions but they were not so good scholars that they could eyther deuide, define, or distinguish vpon them, especially Cardinall Montecello that lay at the Bakers house, who along while had these questions hammering in his head, but to smal purpose, for the more he sought the farther off he was, which greued him full sore: for the day was come wherein they must giue vp their verdict, and the synod of the Cardinals appointed to meet Cardinall Montecello aghand to go, because he was
so

so monstrous a dunce, knowing y Myles the bakers man was a fellow of a prompt wit, and withal so like the Cardinall, as no man possible could discerne the one from the other, brought it so to passe, that he perswaded Miles to go and heare the questions, and to sit in his roabes amongst the rest of the Cardinals: promising, if he won the victorie by his witte he would when he were Pope so labour, that he would make him a Cardinal. Miles that was cur masleper, and moze saucy then honest, vnder took the matter and bluntly ouer his bakers mealye Cassocke for haist put on the Cardinals habit, and went very solemnly to saint Peters church: where the rest of the holy brotherhood sate, taking his place amongst them as Montecello had directed him. Whē thus they were all gathered together, the eldest of the fraternity laide open vnto them that now by the death of Pius y papacy stōd sede vacante: yet by y good direction of his holines in his life time to auoide further controuersie in the Church, he had left a meane to know who should be next successo: in the sea, and thereupon he propounded thre questions, which began at the eldest, & so gradatim went downeward: sundry men gaue sundry verdictes, at last it came to Cardinall Montecello, who was yongest, to yeld his reason, which if it were not probable and plausible, the Synode must deuise some other meanes to knowe the successo: for the questions were so darke that amongst the rest they were as inscrutable Aenigmaes. Well to Miles at last came the matter to bee made manifest, who very demurely in his scarlet roabes and his graue bonnet, began thus: My Lords and fellow brethren in this dignitie, nowe is the text fulfilled: The last shall be first and the first shall be last: For I that am youngest in yeres, am like to be eldest in iudgement. and being last in degree, am like to be first in dignity. Therefore you foolish dunces thus to absolue these thre questions.

What

out of Purgatorie.

9

What kinde of men be those that God
neuer made.

I tell you they be Popes, Cardinals, Abbots, Monks,
and Priests: for none of all these did God euer make: and
thus I proue it. The Creator, both according to the prin-
ciples of Philosophie and Theology, is greater then the
Creature, and it is impossible that the maker should be
formed or fashioned by the thing made; as a pot to make
a Potter: is it not then as repugnant to reason that God
should make a Priest, when the Priest euery day in his
masse maketh God? and so is he the creator, and God the
creature: therefore brethren the Priest is the man that
God neuer made, because wee our selues knowe that the
Priest is Gods maker. To this they all applauded and
said: he had spoke as much as Pius meant. Now quoth hee
to the second question.

What creatures those be, that in sight are Carnations,
in smell Roses, in hearing Syrens, in touching
nettles, and in tast wormewood,

Thus I answered: they be (my masters quoth he) these
kinde of cattle that we couet so much to keepe, and these
be women: for he that sees a gallant wench, which wee
Italians terme Bona Roba, with a faire face flourish over
with a vermilion blush, shee seemes to his eye as beauti-
full as a Carnation: and hir breath that is as swete and
odoriferous as a Rose: he that listens to hir words, shall
finde them as pleasant and melodious as the Syren, and
as full of flattery as Cyrces: so that hee that will
auoide these wiles, must with Vlisses tie himselfe to the
mast, or els venture on these dangerous shelles: in tou-
ching they be nettles, for they sting to the quicke: and in
tast whosoever tries them, shall finde them as bitter in
the

the ende as wormewood. When Miles had discourst this, they thought Sphinx himselfe could not haue yelded a better reason, and therefore our gentle man Baker went on to the third thus boldly: and nowe masters, quoth hee, to the last.

What occupations take more paines about God
then the pope.

Harry quoth Myles, there be three, the ploughman, the Miller and the baker: thus I proue it: The ploughman he takes paines to dress his field, to sow his cozne, and in harvest with toile to reape, in winter to thresh it out with the sweate of his browes. When it is conueyed from him to the Miller and he bestiers him self to set his stones in frame to grind it: next it is transported to the Baker, & he boults it and sifts the bran from the flower, and with great paines makes it into a fine Cake & bakes it, last it is brought to the Pope, and he when he is at masse saies but hoc est corpus meum, and it is God: he spends but a litle fewe wast words about it, whereas the other three labor long ere they bring it to perfection: therefore these three take more paines about God then the pope. One of the old Cardinals hearing this, wondring at his wit began to repeate ouer y names of the ploughswaine the Miller and the baker: Myles hearing him name the Baker, tooke straight Pepper in the nose and starting vpp threw of his Cardinals robes, standing in his dustie Caslocke, swore I by cockeshead the Baker, and he that sayes to the contrary, here stand I Myles the Bakers man to haue the proudest Cardinall of you al by the ears. The Cardinals all this while thinking it had ben Monterello and now seeing it was Myles the Bakers man, to sooth vpp the matter and cloake thier owne ignorances made him Pope & called him in steade of Myles, Boniface: where he sone forgot being a Priest y euer he was a Clarke: in so much
that

that on a day passing to Saint Peters Church, his maister Astasio met him, and among st the rest did his holynesse great reuerence, but Myles now that was Pope, coulde not loke so low as apore baker, which his maister espying, as he came by said that the Pope might heare. Non fuit sic à principio: No Bnaue quoth he, but y shall heare sang anon; Sic erit in secula seculorum Amen. Thus went the Bakers man in solempe porcessiō to Saint Peters church, and there after his instalment hard masse, & so departed home to Castle Angelo. And for that he was aduancst frō from a Bakers trough to the papacie, and after grewe so proud and insolent, that he would not know his old maister: he sits in a Millers dustie Cappe and a Bakers malking: to signifie, the former pride of his life.

Next him sat Hildebrand, & he held a red Vering in his hand, because he made lent: and one Pope sat with a smock sleene about his necke, and that was he that made the imbering weekes; in honore of his faire and beatifull curtizan Imbra.

A litle beyond sat Alexander, who was forst to make cleane rustie Armo, that like Sifiphus stone had no end: for as fast as he scowred, y cancker stil fretted that he did: In caucasum saxum voluere: & this was because he was a better soldier then a Scholler. Ward by him was Iulius, that vpon the brydge threw S. Peters keyes into Tiber, & toke him to y swo, of Paul: infinit other sundry offences: but such a multitude were plangd for wenching, that of the al there was not one scapt fræ for y fault. But Urbane the second, that was in stalde Pope in the morning and was poysoned befoze dinner, and yet the question, whether, if hee had lyued that night, his lemon and he had not bidden penzaunce in purgatorie for their sinnes. Thus when I saw all these statelye fellowes, as I was redy to go out of the hall, I spied sitting in a corner a bare faced youth, wel featured, of a lively countenaunce, and a swete loke, in Popes attire: but on hir head in stead of

a myſter ſhee had a kercher, and in hir hand a diſtaffe: I thought it had bene Hercules that was found playing the wanton ſo with Omphale, or Sardanapalus amongſt his Curtiſans. But at laſt I ſpied it was a Pope, or had been a Pope: But whether man or woman, or what it was I could not tell, till I ſpied witten ouer his head in great Characters this ſtile:

Papa ,Pater, Parens Patriæ, Prope Portas Petri, Pauli,
Paruum Peperit Puerum,

When I perceiued it was Pope Ioane that honeſt wo-
man, that as ſhee went a proceſſion thzough the Lateran
was bzought to bed in the ſtreetes. I ſmilde at hir attire,
and left hir to hir puniſhment. Paſſing from thence I
went into a lower Roome, and there were all kings and
princes, and men of name, which for that I might ſlan-
der their royall titles, I omitte with ſilence. But thus
they were all puniſhed according to their offences, no
more ſpared for their wealth then the poore for their po-
uerty; vnleſſe they died highly in the popes fauour; and
perhaps there was ſome indulgence to mittigate their
puniſhment. I left them, and anon I came into a baſer
rome all full of Monkes and Friars, what ſinnes I ſaw
there figured ſorth I am aſhamed to rehearſe, onely Fri-
ar Onyon the holy Confellour of Florence, hee ſate there
naked, all annointed with hony and miſerably tozmen-
ted with waſpes. The cauſe of his puniſhment I learned
to be this,

The

The tale of Friar Onyon, why in purgatorie
he was tormented with waspes.



Here dwelled a widow in Florence of
good parentage, & large possessions, more
beautiful then she was wealthie, and yet
she was the richest widow in al Florence,
hir name was Lisetta, the onely faulte
that was found in hir was, that hir beau-
tie was more then hir wit, and that such a selfeloue of
hir excellencie had made hir ouerweene hir selfe, that
she thought none fit to bee her husband in all Forence.
Thus though she were lookde at for hir outward perfec-
tion, yet was she laughde at for hir inward follies. Well
howsoeuer others censured of her, she thought her peny
better siluer then the rest, and would so strue to excell
other Gentlewomen in the nicenesse of gesture, that oft-
times she made all: in so much that hir coy quaint-
nesse was a byword in the citie. Euery weeke forsooth, be-
cause she would seeme as vertuous as she was faire, she
deuoutly went to Friar Onyon, to be confessed of hir sins:
the Priest, who was a lustie lubber, and a tall swaine,
and nurst up lust with idlenesse; began to looke vpon hir
more narrowlie, and to take a particular view of hir per-
fections; with that entring with a piercing insight into
hir selfeloue; thought, that she might quickly be over-
reacht in hir owne conceits: for he thought, that if the
wisest women were wonne with faire praises, and large
promises, it were more easie to intrap hir with the dis-
course of her excellencie. Wherefore he laid his plot thus:
the next time Lisetta came to shrift, after she had made
her confession, and had receiued absolution for hir sinnes,
Friar Onyon looking earnestlie vpon hir, fetcht a far sigh
and said: ah Madam! if you knew as much as I know;
as you are the fairest, so you would thinke your selfe the
happiest of all weomen that are alieue. And why say I

pray you, quoth Lisetta? ah said friar Onyon: it is such a secret as may not be reuealed: for if I should disclose it to you, and you by any meanes make it manifest, there were no way with me but a most miserable death. Lisetta, as all women be desirous of noueltie, was so greedie to heare what good was toward hir, that she made a thousand protestations, and vttered a thousand oathes, neuer to betray what her ghostly father should tell her in secret. Then Madam, quoth friar Onyon, with a graue and a demure countenance, know your beautie is so excellent, and your perfection so farre beyond the common course of all other women, that not onely all men that see you, admire you as a miracle: but the very Angels in heauen are enamored of your proportion. The Angels, quoth she, is that possible? The angels, madam, and not the meanest, but the most beautifull of all the rest: for the Angell Gabriel is so far in loue with you, that the other night he appeared vnto me, and charged me to do his earnest commendations vnto you, with promise, that if hee might be assured of your secrecie, he would at conuenient times visit you, and intertaine you with such loue as befitte such holy spirits.

This tale so set a fire Lisetta, that she not onely thanked friar Onyon for his commendations; but counted her selfe the most fortunate of all women, that she was beloued of so blessed a Saint: & therfore when and where it pleased him, he should be intertaineed with as honorable secrecie as a poore dame of her calling might afford. Friar Onyon seeing this geere would worke, prosecuted his purpose then subtilly: he presently fell downe on his knees before hir, and desired, that for such happie newes as he had brought, she would graunt him a boone. Lisetta liberall now to performe any demaund, bad him aske. Then he began thus: Madam, quoth he, for that the Angell Gabriell is a spirit, and his brightnesse such, as no mortall eye can suffer, and therfore must come vnto you

in some humane shape, I pray you vouchsafe, that my bodie may be the receptacle for him, that while he putteth on my carcasse, my soule may enjoy the sight and pleasures of paradise: so shall you not hinder your selfe, and do me an unspeakable benefit. Lisetta seeing Friar Onyon was a lusty tall fellow, willing in what she might, to pleasure him, graunted his request verie willingly: wherevpon it was concluded, that she should leaue the doore open, and about midnight the Angel Gabriell should come to visit hir. Upon this resolution home went Lisetta, as merry as a pie, tricking vp hir bedchamber with all bzauerie, and rich perfumes for the interteinment of hir paramour. And Friar Onyon, as busie as a bee, was making his winges and his trinkets ready to play the Angell: well, he delt so, that he agreed with an old pandoz, that dwelt opposite to the house, and there made himselfe ready, and at the houre appointed went to Lisetta: where he found the doore open, and so entred vp till hee came to her bedchamber; where she sat expecting his coming: as soone as she sawe him with his glorious wings and his white robes, she rose, and fell at his feet: but he louingly tooke her vp, imbracst hir, kist her, and pointed to the bed, whether the Angell went after he had laid apart his habiliments, and Lisetta followed with as much speed as might be: *Cetera quis nescit.* Early before breake of the day, Gabriell tooke his leaue of his Lisetta, and went to his lodging, leauing hir the proudest woman in the world, that shee was beloued of an Angell. Friar Onyon hee got him to his cell, and there tooke vpp his brooken sleepe hee had lost till nine of the clocke, that hee went into his Oratorie: where hee had not sytten long, but Lisetta in as great bzauerie as might, came to the church, and then offerd vp in greater deuotion a burning taper to the Angell Gabriell; afterwards hir orisons done she came to fryar Onyon, who after some conference demaunded hir of hir new lover, whom

whom shee highly commended, and he againe gave hir great thanks, that shee vouchsafed him to be the receptacle of so holy a Saint: for all the while his bodie was with hir, his soule did tast the Joyes of paradise. These two thus agreed, it so fell out that sundry times as occasion & oportunitie would give leaue, the Angell Gabriel visited Lisetta: The fryar thus frolicke in this concealed content was thwarted by fortune on this manner: Lisetta waring very proud with the remembrance of hir new lover, was so coy and disdainfull, as she thought neuer a dame in Florence fit for hir company: insomuch that many wondred why shee grewe so insolent. But the more they maruailed, the more shee was malapert, conceiuing such abundance of selfeloue within hir stomacke, that shee was with childe till shee had vttered hir minde to some of hir gossip: on a day sitting with one in whom shee had most affiance, shee beganne to require secrecy, and shee would vnfold vnto hir a thing not onely strange but of great import. Hir gossip as the custome is, began to blame those wiues whose secrets lay at their tongues end, and saide, shee was neuer toucht with any shame of hir tongue: and therefore what soeuer shee told hir, should bee buried vnder soote and goe no further. Vpon this Lisetta began to rehearse vnto hir from point to point, the whole discourse of the Angell Gabriell, howe hee was in loue with hir, and how sundry nights he lay with hir, and many more matters which he told hir of the ioyes of Paradise. Hir gossip being a wily wench kept hir countenance very demurely, commending the excellencie of hir beauty, that did not onely amaze men, but drew euen Angels to be inamoured of hir: promising to be as secreete in this matter as hir selfe. Shee thought the time long till they might breake off talke, and therefore as soone as shee could finde opportunity, shee tooke hir leaue, and hied hir homeward: but to hir house shee coulde not goe, till shee had met with two or thre of hir gossips: to whom in a great laughter

for shee unfolded what madam Lysetta had told hir, how shee was beloued of the Angell Gabriell, and how sundry nights he lay with hir, and told her of the ioyes of Paradise. This was worke enough for nine daies, for the wonder of Madame Lisettas barne went through all Florence: so that at last it came to the eares of Lisettas friends, who grieued that such a clamor should be raised of their kinswoman: knowing hir follie, thought to watch nere, but they would take the Angell Gabriell and clip his winges from flying. Well secret they kept it, and made as though they had not hard of it, yet kept they such diligent watch, that they knew the night when the Angell would descend to visit Lisetta: whereupon they beset the house round, and as soone as friar Onyon was in, & had put off his winges, & was gone to bed, the rushing in of the watch wakened him from his rest, & that with such a vengeance, that trusting more to his sexe then to his sethers, hee left madam Lisetta amazed at the noise: and he himselfe was so sharply beset and so nere taken, that he was faine to leape out of a hie garret windowe, and so almost brake his neck, into a little narrow lane. Well his best ioint scape, but he was sore bruised: yet feare made him forget his fall, that a way hee ran to a poore mans house where he saw light, and there got in, making an excuse how he had fallen among thornes; and so desired lodging.

The man hauing heard talke of the Angell Gabriell, knowing verie well friar Onyon that knew not him, let him haue lodging verie willinglie, but all this while that he escapt, were Lisettas friends seeking for the saint, that so tenderlie loued their kinswoman: but they could not finde him, and to heauen he was not flowne, for they had found his winges: sorry they were that Gabriell had mist them. But they chid harde, and rebuked the follie of Lisettas selfeloue, that was not onely so credulous, but such a blab as to reueale hir owne secrets: it was late,

and because they had mist of their purpose they departed, leaving Lisetta a sorrowfull woman, that she was so deceived by the Angell Gabriell. Well night passed, and the morning came, & this poore man friar Onyons hoast told him, that he knew not how to shift him: for there was that day a great search for one Friar Onyon that had escaped naked from Lisettas house, and who so kept him in secret should haue his eares nailed on the pillozie: at this the Friar started and said: alas friend I am the man: and if by any meanes thou canst conuay me to the Doctor of our Friozy, I will giue thee fortie Duckats: if you will, quoth his hoast follow my counsaile, feare not, I will conuey you thither safe and unknowne, and thus. This day there is great thewes made before the Duke of Florence, and strange sights to be seene, and diuerse wilde men disguised in strange attire are brought into the market place: now I will dresse you in some strange order, and with a maske ouer your face, lead you amongst the rest, and when the shew is doone, carrying you as though I should carrie you home, I will conueigh you into the Doctors backside secret and unknowne. Although this seemed hard to the friar, yet of two evils the least was to be chosen, and he consented to suffer what the hoast would deuise. Whereupon he that was of a pleasant conceipt vled him thus: he annointed him ouer with barme mixed with hony, and stuck him full of feathers, and tying him by the neck with a chaine, put a visor on his face, and on either side tide a great ban Dogge, in this come equipage marched this poore man with the Friar. He was no sooner come into the open strate, but the people hauing neuer seene such a sight before in Florence, did not onely wonder at the strangenesse of his dressing; but maruailed what this nouelty should meane: whereupon an infinit number not onely of the common sort, but of the graneest citizens followed, to see what should be the end of this wonder.

With

With a solemne pace marched his keeper, till he came to the market place, where tying him to a great pillar that stood there, he then let make in all places of the citie solemne proclamation, that who so would see the Angell Gabriell, should presently come to the market place, and behould him there in that amorous dignitie that he did usually visit the Dames of Florence: at this proclamation there was a generall concourse of people, especially of the better sort that had heard of Lisettas lones: so that the duke himselfe came thither, and amongst the rest Lisettas kinsmen. When all the market place was full of people, the host pulled the visor from the Friars face: at which the people gaue a great shout, clapping their hands, and crying, the Angell Gabriell, the Angell Gabriell, he that comes from heauen, to make vs wear hornes. I need not I hope, intreate you to beleue, y^e poore Friar Onyon was heauily perplexed, especially when the day grew hot, he naked and anointed with hony, so that all the waspes in the citie, as it were by a miracle, left the Grocers shops, and came to visit the friar, because his skin was so swete: but alas to the poore mans paines, that he was almost strong to death. Diuers of his couent came thither to see the strange apparition of the Angell, who when they saw he was friar Onyon: then they couered their shauen crownes with their cooles, and went home with a flea in their eares. Thus all day stood the poore friar wondered at of all the people of Florence, and tormented with waspes, and at night fetcht home to the Dotor by some of his brothers: he was clapt in prison, where for sorrow poore Gabriell died: and because he did so dishonour the other friars, he bydes this torment in purgatorie.

The discourse of the friar thus past, I viewed them all that were Churchmen: and after went into a lower room, where there was a medley of all manner of people of all trades, sciences, and occupations,

assigned to such sundry torments, as mans eye would almost surfet with the varietie of objects, euen the very bosome men were there for robbing of the bosome clothes betwene Barking and London. And hard by them was there a place empty formed thus: It was made like the shape of Liborne the square, and all painted about with balsters, and hard by stood two tall fellows with carters whips so fearnely looking, as if with euery lashe they would cut a man to the bones: there was written ouer the place a great romaine B. I could not learne for whom this torment was provided, for y so many men, so many censures: some said it was for one Boniface which should be Pope, and should proue a great persecutor: others, that Bonner should be brought from his place among the prelates, and be whipt there for baching of Bartlet Greene naked in his garden: but the most voyces went, that it was for Bul the hangman, because at his whipping in London the carters shewed him too much saour. Well for whosoever it is, God blesse me from it, for he is like to be well belaboured with two lustie knaues. Looking still about, I saw three men seated as it were in thrones higher then the rest, with three shields hanging by them, hauing impreses and mottoes, I stayed and gazed my fill vpon them: for they had no punishment, but were as prisoners detayned in purgatorie, but with a preheminence; for which soever of the Ghosts passed by gaue the a knee with a reuerence. I maruailed what they should be, and one told me it was the three degrees of Cuckholds; with that I smilde, and looked more narrowly vpon them, I spide written ouer the firsts head this short sentence, One and One. Ouer the second, None and one: ouer the third One and none. This was to me a darke Aenigma, that I wished some Sphinx to vnfoulde the secret, at last one kept to me and told me the whole matter thus.

The tale of the three Cuckolds, of their impreses
and mottoes.

These three men, my friend quoth the ghost,
when they liued were three famous men,
and yet Cuckoldes, as by their attier
thou maiest perceiue: but different in de-
gree, nature and condition. Hee which
sits highest, ouer whose head thou seest is
written, One and One, had a beautifull dame to his wife,
faire and well featured; yet a great deale moze full of
beauty then of honesty: but howsoeuer qualified, a good
wench shee was, and one that was not such a niggard but
shee could keepe a cozner for a friend: to be brief, shee would
beare a man false at tables, and hir husband that loued I-
rish well, thought it no ill tricke at tables to beare a man
to many: he saw it and knew very well, that his wife lo-
ued another as well as himselfe: yet hee loued hir so, that
he would not discontent hir, but suffered hir to haue hir
longing and to feede hir owne fancie, and like a wittold
winked at it, and therefore worthy to weare the hozne.
Thus while he lined the dishonour of his life was shame
enough for his leudnes, & now after his death because he
was so kind a man, they haue plast him there without any
punishment, because it was penance enough to haue his
conscience prickt with a restless string of baudy. And here
they haue made him a gentleman, and in his Scutchion
haue giuen him the Ram rampant, with a mighty paire
of hoznes hanging ouer his eyes: to signifie, if it be rightly
emblasde, that he had such a great head, & looking through
his hoznes he did see and not see, shocking on with heauy
palmes as belwether to the rest, his Motto is stolne out
of Tully:

Non solum pro nobis.

Meaning, that as we are not hozne for our selues, but for
our

our Country, so he did not marry a wife for himselfe, but for his neighbours: this was the kinde opinion of this grave wittold.

The second, ouer whose head is written, None & One, was a man of an honest and vertuous disposition, who hauing a faire wife, that though shee could not treade right, yet wⁱⁿcht hir shewe inward; that was as secret as shee was false; and though shee could not liue Caste yet shee liued Caute: he neuer suspected hir; but as he was honestly minded towards hir, and kept himselfe to the wife of his bosome, so measured hir foote after his owne last, and thought none in the world to haue a more chaste wife, although indeed none had a more lasciuious wanton. This poore man was none in his owne conceit, yet was one in dede: and therefore is he placd here without any torture: for that it is plague enough for him that hee had a whore to his wife. Hee is likewise made a gentleman and giues Armes the Goate, which by imblasure signifies, that as the Goate carries his hoznes behinde, so hauing hoznes because they were not apparant on his forehead, thought hee had none, and yet carried a faire paire backward like the Gote, his Motto is:

Crede quod habes & Habes.

Meaning, that a mans content stands as his belieuing is; so that if a man in his owne conscience thinkes he hath a faire wife, it sufficeth, what soeuer profe makes manifest to others.

The third, ouer whose head is written, One and None, is a man that hath a woman of surpassing beauty to his wife, excellent and rare in properties, and euery way as vertuous in honest perfection, a woman as faire as Heelen and as chaste as Lucrece: yet so sooth, because his wife is more faire then the common sort, and therefore more gazde on for that wheresoeuer shee goes, many mens eies wait vpon hir and diuers lasciuious youth attempt to frequent hir company; yet shee that is wholly
resolved

resolved vpon vertue hath the tortueis vnder hir feet and
gads not abroad; but keeping home auoids all occasions of
dishonour: yet for al these manifest instances of hir honesty,
the eie of hir husband fiered with suspition so inflames
his hart with iealousie, as there is none looks on his wife,
but he thinks he comes to court hir, & shee glaunces hir eie
on none but straight shee loues him: if shee smile, it is to
thinke how hir loue & shee shall meet; if shee lower, it is be-
cause she hath not seen him to day: thus liuing doth he lead
a hellish life in the labyrinth of Jealousie, & therefore is he
placed heere without punishment in Purgatorie, because
there can be no greater torment then to be plagued with
the restlesse sting of Jealousie. He is as the rest are, made
a gentleman, his arms the Ass. with a maracellous paire
of long & large eares. The emblason this, that as the Ass
for the length of his eares thinks them to be hornes, & yet
indeed are but a plain paire of eares: so he like an Ass be-
cause he hath a faire wife, thinks that per Consequens he
must be a Cuckold, when indeed he is none, and so suppo-
seth his eares to be hornes: his Motto is,

Ne mulieri credas, ne mortua quidem.
Meaning, that what faire thewe soeuer a woman doth
beare of honestie, yet there is no credite to be giuen vnto
hir roynesse: but hee resolves with the crue of the yellow
holde companions, that Mulier, howsoeuer it be spoken or
vnderstande, is a word of vneconstancie: therefore though
he hath no hornes, because his wife is too honest, yet like
an Ass for his Jealousie, hee shall haue a long paire of
eares whiles he liues.

Thus was the order of these Cuckolds discoursed vnto
me, which as soone as I heard I went on further to spie a-
ny worth the noting, much I saw that were frivulous to
re-earse, as diuers women that were hangd by by the
tongues for scolding, and especially one Wotchers wife
of Sudbury, who was so famous for that Art (if wee
may

may fearme it a science) that after hir death, shee was
 chonicked amongst the successiue scoldes hir neighbours
 for an Archgossip in that faculty: for hir husband being a
 poore painefull man that liued by his daily labour, came
 home euery night and brought hir duely and duetifull
 his groate, which could not content hir, but shee would in
 braue fearmes abuse him, and call him rascall and flane;
 but aboue all, prickelouse, which hee coulde not abite:
 wherefore hauing often sozbad hir, and seeing shee would
 take no warning: on a day tooke heart at grasse, and belab-
 board hir well in a cudgill: but all would not suffice: the
 more he beat hir, the more shee cald him prickelouse. See-
 ing stripes would not preuaile, he threathned to cut out hir
 tongue: it is no matter for that knaue quoth shee, yet shall
 the stumpe call thee prickelouse: at this answer the poore
 Botcher was so mad, that taking a rope & tying it about
 hir middle, hauing a well in his yarde, and thereunto
 he let her downe into the well, and threathned to drowne
 hir: tush all would not preuaile, but shee cried more beche-
 mentlie: wherefore hee duckt her ouer head and eares,
 and then when her tong could not wag, shee heaued hir
 hands aboue water, and knock with hir two nailles of hir
 thombes: then saing nothing would preuaile but death,
 he drew hir vp & left hir to hir villanie: shee aboue the rest
 was tormented. A litle below hir I saw a Cooke that was
 a mad merry fellow, and he sate demurely with a Cranes
 leg in his mouth; hauing no other punishment, at this I
 smile, and asked the cause, and it was told me thus.

The tale of the Cooke, and why he sate in Purgatory
 with a Cranes leg in his mouth.



Here dwelled in Venice a Gentleman cal-
 led Signor Bartolo, who being one of the
 Consil adorie, and greatlie experienced in
 the ciuill law, was much frequented of sun-
 dry sutors, amongst the rest there was a
 gentle

gentleman his neighbour, that by fortune had caught some eight or ten Cranes, a fowle in high esteeme in that Citie: these as a thing of great price hee bestowed on Signor Bartolo, who accepted them with that gratefulnes, that so good and bountifull a gift merited. Proude forsooth of this present he fedde them by in one of his yardes, looking with great care to them, because the Venetians hold them so rare. On a day desirous to make his neighbours partakers of his dainties, he bad diuers of them to Supper, and commanded his Cooke to prouide good chere, and amongst the rest, chargde him to kill a Crane, and to see that it were excellently well roasted. The Cooke, whose name was Stephano, made all thinges in a readines for Supper, and when the time was conuenient, laide the Crane to the fire. Now say this Stephano was a fellowe that was somewhat amorous, and excellent at courting of a Country wench; insomuch that he was the chief gallant of all the parish for dancing of a Lincolneshire hornepipe in the Churchyard on sondaies: being thus well qualified, he was generally loued of al the gyrls thereabout, and especially of one in the towne, whom he had so long dallied withall, that the maide fell sicke, and hir disease was thought to be a Limpany with two heeles: wel howsoever shee was spedde, and Stephano had done the dedde. This maide hearing what a great feast should be at Signor Bartoloes house, hied hir thither, not onely to see the good chere: but that shee must see hir rie with the sight of hir Stephano, who now was ruffling and sweating in the kitchen; shee made an excuse and came in for fier, but in an vnlucky time for the poore Cooke: for shee no soner sawe the Crane but shee longd for a leg, and that so sore, that there was nothing but that or death: whereupon shee calde Stephano to hir, and told him that shee must needes haue a legge of the Crane: for shee so deeply longd for it, that if shee had it not, it were able both to cast hir away and that shee went withall. Although poore Stephano al-

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ledgde many excuses, as the displeasure of his Maister,
 and the feare of the losse of his seruice: yet no reason could
 preuaile with hir, who was without reason: and therfore
 what soe loue hee bare hir, and soe dread of discredite that
 might ensue, if soe want of hir longing shee shoulde fall to
 trauell, hee ventred a ioint, and when the Crane was e-
 nough cut hir off a legge. His wench thus satisfied went
 home: And Supper time grew on, for all the guests were
 come, and presently because it was somewhat late, sate
 downe: where they were serued very bountifully, at last
 the dainties the Crane soe sooth, was brought vp, and sig-
 nio Bartolo commaunded the Caruer to truncke hir,
 which when he had done, shee was set vpon the table: the
 gentleman of the house fell to distributing to his guests,
 and at last mist a legge, with that looking about he calde
 the Caruer, and askt him where the other leg was: Sye
 quoth hee, your Maistership hath all the Cooke sent vp:
 then quoth Bartolo goe to the Cooke, & aske him where the
 other leg is: the Caruer went down and did his Maisters
 commande; the Cooke thinking to face out the matter, be-
 gan to smile: why quoth he, we may see Cranes are dainty
 in this Country, when gentlemen cannot tell how many
 legs they haue: goe tell my Maister I sent him vp as ma-
 ny legges as shee had. The fellow brought this newes to
 his Maister, who in a great chafe called for the Cooke, and
 asked of him howe many legs a Crane had: marry sye
 quoth he, one: why malapert billeine quoth Bartolo, moe-
 Rest thou me before all these gentlemen? not I sye quoth
 the Cooke: for I am sure I hane dyest many in my life: &
 hitherto yet I neuer saw a Crane haue but one leg. With
 this answer Bartolo was thzoughly inflamed w choller,
 but that he would shew himselfe to be patient amongst his
 neighbours, he suppressed his anger with this mild reply:
 Either, gentlemen, you may thinke I or my Cooke is
 drunke, that hold a dispute about a Cranes legge: but for
 that this night I will not bee impatient, I passe it ouer:
 but

but to morrow morning all as you are here, I humbly request you to take so much paines as to rise betimes, and to be Judges betwene me and my man, whether Cranes haue two legs or no: for I haue eleauen Cranes more, and wee will early goe into the yerde where they feede: and this shall be the wager betwene my man and me, if they haue but one leg, I will giue him twenty Duckats and a sute of Hatten: if they haue two, hee shall haue twenty blowes with a cudgill, & I will turne him quite out of seruice: with this motion the Cooke seemed very wel contented, that all the guests smilde to see poore Stephano so obstinate: vpon this matter they began to descant and fell into pleasant chat, and so passed away the supper time: at last, although loth to depart, yet euery man departed with great thanks to Signior Bartolo for their good chere, promising, very early in the morning to be with him. Where we leaue them, and againe to the Cooke, who provided all his trinkets in a readines, to trudge away with bag and baggage the next morning: for he knewe his matter was nought; thus with a heauy hart he passed away the night, and in the morning fell in a slumber: but hee had not long lien in his dreame, but Bartolo accompanied with his neighbours knockt at his mans chamber doore, and bad him rise, that they might end the quarrell: poore Stephano started vp and with a heauy chere comming out of his chamber, gaue his maister and the rest the Bon Ioure: Come syr ha quoth his maister, heere are the gentlemen my neighbours are come to be equal censours of our controuersie: hold, take the key of the yarde, & open you the doore, & then let vs see how many legs a Crane hath: the Cooke took the key & very easily opened the doore, and entred in, and all the Cranes, because it was so early, were at stand, as their custome is generally all stode vpon one leg, and held the other vnder their wing. Stephano seeing the advantage not willing to let so fair a ball fall to the ground, began himselfe: now syr (quoth he) I hope your selfe & the

rest of the gentlemen will confesse I haue wonne the
wager: for you see heere is neuer a Crane that hath moze
then one legge. At this seeing how nimble he was to take
the aduantage, they all laught: Truth say quoth his
Maister, they stand now on one leg, but straight you shall
see me make them all haue two: with that Signoz Barto-
lo lifting vp his hande cried, So ho; and with that the
Cranes let downe their legges, and euery one stode vpon
two: how now you knaue quoth his Maister, how many
legges hath a Crane? hath shee not two? yes marry say
quoth hee, and so would your other Crane haue had, if you
had done this: for if your worship when you had seene the
Crane in the platter had but one legge, had as lowde as
you doe now, cried, So ho, why then shee would haue had
two legges as well as these: At this iest, Signoz Bartolo
fell into such a laughing and all his guests with him, that
hee laught away choller, and admitted his man into
his wonted fauour: whereupon Stephano tolde them the
whole discourse, what happened betwene him and his
wench, and vpon this merrily they went all to breake
fast. Now say, although this fault was forgiven:
yet because hee died not in fauour with the Priest of the
Parish, hee was appointed for stealing the Cranes leg
to stand in Purgatorie with a legge in his mouth for a
certaine season.

After I had heard this discourse of the Cooke, I went
on further to see if I coulde perceiue any other such Iesses
as might make mee merry in so melancholicke a place,
at last, as I cast mine eye aside, I sawe where a poore Wic-
kar sate with a Coale in his mouth, I aske the reason
why he was appointed to such punishment, and it was an-
swered me thus,

The tale of the Vickar of Bergamo, and why he
sits with a coale in his mouth
in purgatorie.

Here dwelled sometime in Bergamo a vic-
kar that was welbeloued in the towne, for
that he was a bowne companion, and would
not stick to play at trumpe all day with his
parishoners for a pot or two of Ale, a faire
reader he was, and pleased the people well, marry for his
learning that was little, and tongs he had no more then
were in his mouth: neither would hee trouble himself
with the knowledge of many languages, but applied his
idle time vpon good fellowship. It chanced that his score
growing very great, and much chalke vpon the post, his
hostesse wanting money to pay the Saltman, wared ha-
stie with the vickar for hir debt, hee being then bare of
pence, because his quarterage was not come in, tould hir
she could not haue it as yet, wherebpon they grew to
words, and from wordes to blowes, for masse Vlickar
went away with a broken head, which driude him into
such a chollier that he sought al meanes how to reuenge,
and he laid his plot thus. Euery sunday morning afore
masse all the youth of the parish did accustome to come to
the Alehouse to eate hot puddings, which was great pro-
fit to the godwife: now to pzenent hir of this commo-
ditie, the vickar spake against it, and forbad it openly: yet
it was not so deeply inueighed against, but that diuerse
Sundaies they would make a scale thither to breake
fast: and one Sundaye amongst the rest, the whole crew
being gathered together, notice was ginen to the vickar:
wherebpon he bied him thither, and found them all hard
at it by the teeth: when they saue masse vickar come in,
euery man rose bp and ranne away to shift for himselfe,
the hostesse she whipt in with hir puddings; so that there
was none left in the house but Maister vickar: who spy-
ing a dozen of lustie large black puddings hangde in the

Chimney, whip them into his wide sleeve, & wēt his way: he was no sōner gone, but the goodwife comming out mist hir puddings, and little suspected the Tlickar, but thought some of hir guests had caried them away: wherupon she tould it to hir husband, who let the matter passe lightly, and wisht his wife to make hir hastily ready, that they might go to masse: on goes she with hir holiday party, and sponging hir selfe vp, went with hir husband to Church, and came iust to the seruice: wel maister Tlickar who was in a great chafe, mumbled bp his mattins, and after seruice was done very stoutly got him into the pulpit, and began to fall to his collation, his text was vpon the Gospell for that daye, which hee so coursed and canuallde ouer that hee fell at last to talke of the breakefast: oh neighbours quoth hee, as I came this daye to Churchward, I came into a house, nay into an Alehouse, where I found a crew at breakfast befoze Masse, at a blondie breakfast, a blacke breakfast, yea neighbours the Devils breakfast; and with that he threw his arms about him with such violence, that his wide sleeve vntied, the puddings fell out, and hit an old wife on the head that she fell ouer againe: the hostesse seeing hir dozen of puddings that she mist, cried out to hir husband: oh man, quoth she, thers the dozen of Puddings that were gone out of the Chimney; hee thee least they bee gone: at this there was such a laughing, and such a rumoꝝ, that the poore Tlickar was faine to leaue of his collation, and come downe to answer what the Alewife objected against him: but he was so welbeloued in the parish, that the Alewife was punished, and hir Sunday breakfasts put downe by a common consent of the Churchwardens. The Tlickar thus well reuengde of the Alewife, indenuored how to make amends to his parish, and therefore casting in his head how he might bying it to passe; one day as he travelled towards Pisa he met a stranger, who had certaine feathers in his hand of a byrd called Apis Indica, which were

were long and large, of the colour of golde, and were so bright as scarce one could looke against them: such before were neuer sene in Italic. Masse Wlickar as soone as hee saw these, had a reach in his head, and iumpt with the traualer to buie one, a prise was pitcht for thirtie Iulios, and Masse Wlickar paide it: hauing this, home he came, and bought a case of crimsin Weluet imbroided with gold, to put his feather in, keeping it with great curiositie and secrecie, making report that he had one of the richest reliques in the worlde, and promising vpon Candlemas day next to shew it: wherevpon it was not onely blazed abroad throughout the towne, but in all the villages and hamlets adioyning, that both olde and yong prepared themselves to see this holie relique. Two of the crew, who were brothers at the breakefast of Puddings, hearing these newes sought how to be euen with maister Wlickar: and therefore brought it so to passe by a wenche of the house where the Wlickar lay, that they might see the holie relique; she brought them to the chamber and the box wherein the case lay in perfume, the fellow looking in, and seeing a feather, neither respecting reason, nor religion, tooke it out and put it in his bolome, and fild the case full of charcoales that lay by, and so putting the case into the box, kist the wench and went his waye. Seruice time being come, maister vicar runs vp for his box, claps it vnder his arme, and alway he goes to Church: and for that it was Candlemas day a high day, he sayd and song a very soleinne Masse; and that being done, seeing such a multitude of people, he got him with a great grace into the pulpit, and began his text, which after he had ratled ouer a litle, he told them what sundry reliques were left to the Church for the benefit of the people: oh my maisters and good friends quoth he, parishioners and neighbours: You see that euery city heer about, nay through the whole world, hath some holy relique or other, as a blessing belonging to their corporacion: but our poore towne of Bergamoano

gamo hath had none : But now God hath considered of your estate, and hath sent you a richer and more holy then all the rest. Some towne, quoth hee, hath a peece of the crosse, or of the nailes, or a peece of the sponge, that recht Christ Vineger; at Rome there is the speare that pierst his syde; at Venice the Chawbone of saint Marke, good for the falling euill; at Vienna the tooth of S. Appolym wholesome for the toothake; at Pyssa the horse of Saint Loyes horse that healeth such kinde of cattell; for the Swine Saint Anthonies bell; for the peise, Saint Dunstones tonges; for the Squinsey, Saint Martins trough; for the eye sight Saint Winifrids girdle; for the Wallie Saint Asaphs Beads, and a thousand more, which are now needlesse to rehearse: but good people, I haue here for your comfort one of the feathers; yea one of those holy and glorious feathers, that the Angell Gabriell wore when he saide Aue Maria to the mother of Christ: olde wiues, and aged men, yea rich and poore kneele downe, and with ioy behold so great a myracle; with that they all fell vpon their knees, and he puld forth his box, and drew forth the case, which when he hard rattle, he marvelled: but when he put his hand in, and found nothing but coales, his heart was cold in his belly, and he swet for woe: yet hauing a knauish and a ready wit, he sordainly and vpon the present shifted it thus. Good people, quoth he, I haue mist of my box, and haue left the wing of the Angell Gabriell behind me: but I haue here a relique no lesse precious then that, which I thought not to shew you before Easter day, and these be the coales that Saint Lawrence the holy Martyr was bould with, and with that he drew the Charcoale out of his poake: these parishioners quoth he, even the very marke that is made with these, is good against all euill spirits, against blasting and witchcraft; and therefore seeing it is the will of God I should shew you these first, I will come downe and marke you all with the holy relique of Saint Lawrence;

rence; so he stept downe out of the pulpit, and crost them all to his great profit, and their content: for which cause in that he mockt the people, he is appointed to stand in purgatorie with a coale in his mouth.

The vicars tale of Pergamo being ended, I went further, and presently I espyed a little doore, whereout issued a most fearefull noise tempered with such far fetched sighes and grievous shrikes, that it was a sound much to be pitied: the smalenesse of the voice disquered that they were women. Whereupon I pressed more nere the doore, and looked in at a little chinke, and there I might see a company of beautifull women of all ages pitifully tormented, as sitting in a place full of smoake and stinking fumes, and bitten continually about the hearts with scorpions: in all there were not aboue thre of them, and yet they uttered as grievous laments as though there had bene a thousand. I demaunded why these were punished aboue the rest; they said, they were such as died maides and kept their virginities without spots, that hated men; and for that they were so hard harted, they were adindged to that sharpe punishment. Straight as I cast mine eye vp, I spide in a blind corner where a Painter sat, hauing the picture of a roode hung befoze him, and euerie time he looked vpon it, he had thre bastanados ouer the shoulders with a belroape, as of the rest, so I inquirde the cause of this, and it was discoursed to me thus.

The tale of the Painter of Doncaster, and why in purgatorie he was beaten with a Belroape.



Know you are not ignorant, how in king Edward the sixts dayes all popery and superstition was banished, and the light of the Gospell puld from vnder the Bushell where it was couered, and to the sight and comfozt of all set vpon a hill: so that

all his reliques were abolished, and his idols puld downe, and the Church as nere as they could, cleansed from the breggs of such an Antichrist: wherevpon the Painters that liude with such trash, as trimming of bzines and roodes, altars and Saints, and the caruers that made such images, were faine with Alexander the Copper Smith to crie out against Paule and his doctrine, hauing so little worke that they almost forgot their occupation. Fnt when for the sinnes of this land, and wickednesse of the people, the Lord toke away their good king, and de- prined them of the swete Manna of the Gospell, and sent them againe Antichrist with all his traditions, Quene Marie lawfull successo in the kingdome; made procla- mation, that all those roodes which were puld downe, should be set vp againe in euery Church. Amongst the rest, the Church of Doncaster in Yorkeshire, desiring to be one of the foremost, to signifie their obedience and deu- otion, in all hast sent for the Painter to make them a roode, and agreed vpon the price. Wherevpon he went about his worke, but for that his hand had bene out of vse by the space of six yeres, he had forgot the lineaments of the visage, and the other wonted propoztion, that he made it very hard fauourde; yet as euery mans worke seemes well to himselte, he went forward withall and set it vp on a satterday at night on the Roodloft: on Sunday at masse there was old ringing of Bels, and old and yong came to church to see the new roode, which was so ill fa- uourde, that all the parish mislikt it, & the children they cried and were afraid of it: vpon this they fell in greate displeasure with the painter, & when monday came, and he was with the chiefe of the parish for his money, they denyed flatly to pay him any, because his worke was so ill wrought. He vpon that cald them before the maior of the towne, who was a man that sanored king Edwards religion, as far as he durst, & to him the painter made his complaint, that the parishoners now that hee had made
their

their roode, would not pay him his money: the Maioz de-
maunded of them why they denide him paiement: they an-
swered, for that he had like a bungler made Chzist so hard
sauored, that it was not only unfit to stand in any church,
but their childzen were afraid to looke on it: so that euery
way it should greatly hinder deuotion. But yet quoth the
maioz, the poore man hath done his goodwil, you must con-
sider his hand hath bin long out of vse, & therfore there is
no reason though his cunning hath failde him, but you
should pay him his mony: Well say quoth they, at your re-
quest we will giue him what our bargaine was: but we
must buie a new rood, and cannot tell what to do with the
old: marry neighbozs quoth the Maioz, if he wil not serue
you for a god, follow my aduise, clap a paire of hoynes on
his head, and I warrant you hee will proue an excellent
good deuill: and that sir, quoth the painter, will I doe ouer
and beside their bargaine. Thus were the poore parishio-
ners of Doncaster mockt, and yet paid their money: but
their Ticker so delt with bell, booke, and candle against
the poore painter for making the ill sauoured roode, that
he sit in purgatorie beaten with a Belroape.

The tale of the Painter being ended, passing a little
further, I might see where sat a crew of men that woare
Baie garlands on theyr heads, and they were Poets,
amongst which was ould Ennius, Virgill, Iuuenall, Pro-
pertius, and wanton Ouid, Martiall, Horace, and many
moe: which had witten lasciuious verse, or other heroi-
call poems. But aboue them all I marked ould Ronfard,
and he sat there with a scroule in his hand, wherein was
witten the description of Cassandra his Distresse, and
because his stile is not common, nor haue I heard our
English Poets write in that baine, marke it, and I will
rehearse it, for I haue learnd it by heart.

RONSARDS DESCRIPTION OF

his Mistresse, which he wears in his
hand in Purgatorie.

Downe I sat,
I sat downe,
where *Flora* had bestowed hir graces;

Greene it was,
It was greene
Far surpassing other places,
For art and nature did combine
With sights to witch the gasers cyne.

There I sat,
I sat there
viewing of this pride of places:

Straight I saw,
I saw straight
the sweetest faire of all faire faces;
Such a face as did containe,
Heauens shine in euery vaine.

Idid looke,
Looke did I,
and there I saw *Appollos* wyers,
Bright they were,
They were bright,
with them *Auroras* head he tiers,
But this I woendred how that now
They shadowed in *Cassandras* brow.

Still I gazde,
I gazde still,
spying *Lunas* milke white glase:
Comixt fine,
Fine comixt,

With

with the mornings ruddie blase:

This white and red their seating seekes

Vpon Cassandraes smiling cheekes.

Two stars then,

Then two stars

passing Sunne or Moone in shine

Appearde there,

There appearde

and were forsooth my Mistres cine:

From whence prowde Cupid threw his fiers

To set a flame all mens desiers,

Brefts shee had,

Shee had brefts

white like the siluer doue;

Lie there did,

There did lie

Cupid ouergrowne with loue,

And in the vale that parts the paine

Pitcht his tent there to remaine.

This was shee,

Shee was this

the fairest faire that ere I see;

I did muse,

Muse did I

how such a creature found could be;

A voice replied from the Aire,

Shee alone and none so faire.

This was Ronsards description of his Mistres, and he is
forced to hold it in his hande, that euery time hee casts his
eyes on it, he may with sighs feel a secret torment, in that
he once loued too much being alive. A little aboue late
the ghost of a yong gentlewoman that had bene false to
him.

hir husband, she should haue bene grienously tormen-
ted: but that she bestowed an annuity for three yeares
pension vpon a morrow masse priest, who so laboured it
with dirges, trentals and masses Ad requiem, that she
had no other punishment but this, that hir beautiful
haire wherein she so much delighted, and whose trameles
was a traine to intrappe young gentlemen, that now
was clipt off bare to the skull, and so shee sate ashamde
and mourning: the cause as I learnde was this.

Why the gentlewoman of Lions sate with hir haire
clipt off in Purgatorie.



In the Citie of Lions there dwelt a gentles
man of good account amongst his neighbors,
called Monsieur Perow; this gentleman ha-
uing lands and reuenues sufficient to main-
taine his estate, thought fully to beape to
himselfe content, and therefore sought out a yong virgin
of equall parentage to himselfe, with whom he had a suffi-
cient dowry, and hir he loued, and shee likte him, and so
they married, liuing in good estimation amongst their Te-
nants. As they were thus linked together in wedlocke, so
it seemde in outward appearance that they were so strict-
ly tied in affection, as no meanes might alienate. But
women, whom nature hath framde to be inconstant, can
not be altred by nurture. The Palme will grow straight
though it bee neuer so depressed; and a wanton will bee a
wanton, were shee married to Cupid, and so it
proude by Maria; so so was the gentlewoman's name:
who because shee was faire had many Sutors, that
attempted to bee riualls with hir husband in hir loue; a-
mongst the rest as shee resolved to chose one, there was a
yong amorous youth of Lions calde Pier, he sought diuers
meanes to creepe into hir fauor, past by hir house, and cast
by looks that pleaded for pittie, and had banded him again
glances

glances that foreshewed good will : Thus with interchange of favours they lived. Pier seeking opportunity how to reveale his minde to Maria, at last as hee walked one day forth the towne, he saw where shee was walking only with one of hir maides, taking therefore opportunity by the forehead he stept to hir, and beganne to court hir with sundry protestations of his loue, which had been long and so surely set as no dispaire coulde race out, promising not onely to be a faithfull servant in constancie : but to bee so carefull of hir honour as of his owne life: & for your gravitie, think Mistres quoth he, that faults in affections are sleight follies, that Venus hath shynnes to shade hir trewantes, & Cupids wings are shelters for such as benter far to content their thoughts, unseene is halfe pardoned, and lone requires not chastity, but that hir Souldiers be chary. Maria hearing the wag thus play the Orator, having loue in hir eyes and desire in heart, after a fewe faint denials, thrusting him away with the little finger, and pulling him to hir with the whole hande, shee graunted him that favour to be cald hir servant. Oracde thus he grewe in such credite, that there was no man with Maria but Pier, having thus a lone beside hir husband, although hee was a faire man and well seatured; yet shee found fault with him, because he was a meacocke and a milkesoppe, not daring to drawe his sward to reuenge hir wrongs: wherefore shee resolved to entertaine some Souldier, and so shee did: for one Signor Lamberto a braue Gentleman; but some thing harde facde, sought hir favour and founde it, and him shee entertained for hir Champion.

Thus had shee a white lined Adon to seede hir eie with beauty, and a stout Hercules to reuenge all hir wrongs with his sward, and a poore husband to shadowe both with his hornes. Living thus contentedly in hir owne conceite, hir husband went into the Country to a farme of his, and thither with him hee carried his wife,
where

where hee passed away many merry daies in such pleasure, as Country sports can afford: at last serious affairs forcing him to it, he rid his way for three or foure daies to certaine of his friends there adioining. Maria seeing hir husband gone thought not to let time slippe, nor to lose opportunity: and therefore the next day after sent for Piero, who hasted as fast as might be, till he came to his Mistres, where he had such friendly intertainment as fitted both their humours; shee caused hir maide to make great chere, and as soon as it was ready, to dinner they went, where they were scarce set but one knocked at the doore, the maide looked out and it was Signor Lamberto, shee ran and told hir Mistres; who fearefull that he should see Piero know of him, hid him vnder the bed, and commanded hir maide to bid Signor Lamberto come by: shee like a cunning Curtizan giuing him such fauourable intertainment as though hee were the man whom aboue all other shee made account off. Faith swete (quoth hee) I heard thy husband was from home, and so I tooke my nag and came gallopping hither: set him into the stable quoth the Mistres: No quoth (Signor Lamberto) let him bee there still and bite of the bridle, for my business is such, as I will onely dine with you, and then bid you farewell: with that he sate him downe to dinner. While Piero lying close vnder the bed; thinking euery minute an houre till he were gone: as thus they sate in their cuppes and were wantonly quaffing one to another; came in the maide running, and said, hir Maister came riding: at this Signor Lamberto started vp and was amazed: but the gentlewoman was in a feare that had two louers at once in hir house, and yet could haue hidden them both had it not bene for the horse that stood tied in the Court yerde: well a shift must bee had, & where sooner then out of a womans head. What shall I doe quoth Signor Lamberto? marry I pray you good sweet heart quoth shee, to saue your owne credite and mine, drawe your sword and goe downe the
staires

staires, and as you goe, sweare & say, that you shall finde a time and place more conuenient, when you will bee reuengde to the vttermoſt; ſo he did, & by that time was the gentleman of the houſe come in, who marnailed to ſee a hoſe tied in the Court, and therefore alighting off came vp the ſtaires, and as he came, met Lamberto with his ſwoorde drawne, and his face full of frownes, ſwearing, when ſitter time and place ſhoulde ſerue hee woulde reuenge and that with extremitie. What is the matter quoth the Maſter of the houſe: he answered nothing, but put vp his ſword, took hoſe & away towards Lions. Aſſone as the gentleman came vp, he found his wife amazed, ſitting in the hall in the middeſt of the flowre, as halfe beſide her ſelfe: what is the matter wife (quoth hee) that thou art ſo amazed, and that Signor Lamberto went downe with his ſwoorde drawne in ſuch a rage? Ah huſband (quoth ſhe) as I ſate here at my worke, came running into the court yarde a proper young man hauing throwne away his Cloake and his Hatte, and deſired mee, as I tendered the ſtate of a man, to ſaue his life, ſay Signor Lamberto would kill him: I pittying his caſe ſtept in and hidde him in my bedchamber: with that came Signor Lamberto gallopping, diſmounted in the court and drawing his ſwoorde, came running vp and woulde haue broken open my chamber doore, but that on my knees I intreated him to the contrary: at my request hee went his way, frowning as you ſee, and ſo hee is rode to Lions: the poore young man (alas) huſband lies hidde vnder the bed in great feare: and this tale ſhe tolde ſo lowde that Pier heard euery worde, and therefore had his leſſon what hee ſhould anſwere: ſmyling at the prompt witte of his Miſtreſſe that had ſo ſodaine a ſhift. Bidde him come out wife quoth he: then ſhe oapt the doore, and Pier he came as one greatly affrighted from vnder the bedde. The gentleman ſeing him a proper young man and weaponleſſe, had pittie on him and ſaide: hee was glad that his houſe

was

was a sanctuary for him, and greatly commended his wife that shee had saued him from the fury of Signor Lamberto, whom all Lions accounted a most desperate man: vpon this taking Pier by the hand they sate downe to dinner, and when they had taken their repast, the gentleman very curteously conducted Pier home to Lions. Now for because shee was thus inconstant, shee to qualifie hir pride and insolencie, sate in Purgatory with the punishment afoze rehearsed.

This tale beeing ended, I lookde a little further, and I might see where a young man and a young woman sate together naked from the middle vppward, and a very olde man whipping of them with nettles: they as persons that little regarded his punishment, would oftentimes kisse, and then the olde man as one inwardly vexed, would bestirre all his strength to torment them: the reason of this strange shewe was thus discourst vnto mee.

The tale of the two Louers of Pisa, and why they were whipt in Purgatory with nettles.



In Pisa a famous Cittie of Italie, there liued a gentlemā of good linage and landes, feared as well for his wealth as honoured for his vertue; but indeede well thought on for both: yet the better for his riches. This Gentleman had one onely Daughter called Margaret, who for hir beauty was liked of all and desired of many; but neither might their suites, nor hir owne eie preuaile about hir fathers resolution, who was determined not to marry hir, but to such a man as should be able in abundance to maintaine the excellencie of hir beautie.

beantle. Diuers young gentlemen proffered large scoff-
ments, but in vaine: a maide shee must bee still till at last
an olde Doctor in the towne that professed Physicke, be-
came a sutor to hir, who was a welcome man to hir fa-
ther, in that he was one of the welthiest men in all Pisa.
A tall stripling he was and a proper youth, his age about
foure score, his heade as white as milke, wherein for of-
fence sake there was left neuer a tooth: but it is no mat-
ter, what he wanted in person he had in the purse, which
the poore gentlewoman little regarded, wishing rather to
tie hir selfe to one that might fit hir content, though they
liued meanelly, then to him with all the wealth in Italie.
But shee was young and forst to follow hir fathers dire-
ction, who vpon large couenants was content his daugh-
ter should marry with the Doctor, and whether shee likt
him or no, the match was made vp, and in short time shee
was married. The poore wench was bound to the stake,
and had not onely an olde impotent man: but one that
was so iealous, as none might enter into his house with-
out suspicion, no shee doe any thing without blame: the
least glance, the smallest countenance, any smile was a
manifest instance to him, that shee thought of others bet-
ter then himselfe: thus he himselfe liued in a hell and tor-
mented his wife in as ill perplexitie. At last it chaunced,
that a young Gentleman of the Citie comming by hir
house, and seeing hir looke out at hir windowe, noting hir
rare and excellent proportion, fell in loue with hir, and
that so extreamely, as his passions had no meanes till
hir fauour might mittigate his heartlike discontent.
The young man that was ignozant in amorous matters
and had neuer bene bled to Court anie Gentlewomen,
thought to reueale his passions to some one friend, that
might giue him counsaile for the winning of hir loue,
and thinking experience was the surest Maister, on a
day seeing the olde Doctor walking in the Church
that was Margarets husbände, little knowing who
he

he was, he thought this the fittest man to whom he might discover his passions, for that hee was olde and knewe much, and was a Physitian that with his drugges might helpe him forward in his purposes: so that seeing the olde man walke solitary hee ioind vnto him, and after a courteous salute, tolde him that he was to impart a matter of great import vnto him; wherein if hee would not onely be secrete, but indeuour to pleasure him, his paines should bee every way to the full considered. You must imagine gentleman, quoth Mutio, for so was the Doctors name, that men of our profession are no blabs, but hold their secrets in their hearts bottome, and therfore reueale what you please, it shall not onely be concealed; but cured, if either my Art or counsaile may do it. Upon this Lionel, so was the yong gentleman called, tolde and discoursed vnto him from point to point howe he was fallen in loue with a gentlewoman that was married to one of his profession, discouered hir dwelling and the house, and for that hee was vnacquainted with the woman, and a man little experienced in loue matters, he required his fauour to further him with his aduise. Mutio at this motion was stung to the heart, knowing it was his wife hee was fallen in loue withall: yet to conceale the matter and to experience his wifes chastity, and that if shee plaid false he might be reuenged on them both; he dissembled the matter and answered, that hee knewe the woman very well, and commended hir highly; but said, shee had a Churle to hir husband: and therefore he thought shee would be the more tractable: trie hir man quoth hee, faint heart neuer womanne faire Ladie: and if shee will not be brought to the bent of your bowe, I will provide such a potion as shall dispatch all to your owne content, and to giue you further instructions for oportunitie, know that hir husband is forth euery after none from thre till sixe. Thus farre I haue aduised you, because I pittie your passions as my selfe being once a louer; but now I charge thee reueale it

to none whomsoever, least it should disgrace my credit
to meddle in amorous matters. The young Gentleman
not onely promised a carefull secrecie, but gaue him har-
ty thanks for his good counsell, promising to meete him
there the next day, and tell him what newes. Then hee
left the old man, who was almost mad for feare his wife
any way should play false: he saw by experience, braue
men came to besiege the castle, and seeing it was in a wo-
mans custodie and had so weake a gouernour as himselfe,
he doubted it would in time be deliuered vp, which feare
made him almost frantike: yet he diuide of the time in
great torment, til he might heare from his riuall. Lionel-
lo he hastes him home and saues him in his brauery, and
goes downe towards the house of Mutio, where he sees
hir at the window, whome he courted with a passionate
looke with such an humble salute, as she might perceiue
how the Gentleman was affectionate. Margareta looking
earnestly vpon him, and noting the perfection of his pro-
portion, accompted him in hir eye the flower of all Pisa,
thinkte hir selfe fortunate, if she might haue him for hir
friend, to supply those defaults that she found in Mutio:
sundry times that afternoone he pass by hir window, and
he cast not vp more louing looks then he receiued gra-
tious fauours: which did so incourage him, that the next
day betwene thre and foure hee went to hir house, and
knocking at the doore, desired to speake with the Mistres
of the house, who hearing by hir maids description, what
he was, commaunded him to come in, where she intertei-
ned him with all curtesie.

The youth that neuer before had giuen the attempt
to court a Ladie, began his exordium with a blush: and
yet went forward so well, that hee discoursed vnto hir
howe hee loued hir, and that if it might please hir so to
accept of his seruice, as of a friend euer bounde in all
dutie to bee at hir commaunde, the care of hir honour
should bee dearer to him then his life, and he would be

bee ready to prise hir discontent with his blonde at all times.

The Gentlewoman was a little coye, but befoze they past they concluded, that the next day at foure of the clock he should come thither and eate a pounce of cherries, which was resolved on with a succado des labres, and so with a loath to depart they take their leaues. Lionello as ioyfull a man as might be, hyed him to the church to meete his ould Doctoꝛ, where he found him in his ould walke: what newes syꝛ quoth Mutio? how haue you sped? Euen as I can wish quoth Lionello. For I haue bene with my Mistresse, and haue found hir so tractable, that I hope to make the ould peasaunt hir husband loke broad headed by a paire of browantlers. How deepe this stroake into Mutios heart, let them imagine that can coniecture what ielousie is; in so much that the ould Doctoꝛ askt when should be the time: marry quoth Lionello, to morrow at foure of the clock in the afternone, and then Maister Doctoꝛ quoth bee; will I dub the ould Squire knight of the soꝛked order.

Thus they past on in chat till it grew late, and then Lionello went home to his lodging, and Mutio to his house, conering all his soꝛowes with a merry countenance, with full resolution to reuenge them both the next day with extremitie. He past the night as patientlie as he could, and the next day after dinner away he went, watching when it should bee foure of the clocke, at the houre iust came Lionello, and was intertained with all curtesie: but scarce had they kist, ere the maide cryed out to hir Mistresse that hir Maister was at the doꝛe: soꝛ he hasted, knowing that a hoꝛne was but a little while on grafting: Margaret at this alarum was amazed, and yet soꝛ a shift chept Lionello into a great dyke sat full of feathers, and sat hir downe close to hir worke: by that came Mutio in blowing, and as though bee came to looke somewhat in hast, called soꝛ the
the

the keyes of his Chambers, and looked in euery place, searching so narrowlie in euery corner of the house, that he left not the verie priue vnsearcht: seeing he could not finde him, hee said nothing, but sayning himselfe not well at ease staide at home, so that pooze Lionello was faine to staie in the dyie fatte till the ould churle was in bed with his wife; and then the maide let him out at a backdore, who went home with a flea in his eare to his lodging.

Well the next day he went againe to meeete his Doctor, whome hee found in his wonted walke; what newes quoth Mutio? how haue you sped? A pox of the ould slave quoth Lionello, I was no soner in, and had giuen my mistresse one kisse, but the iealous asse was at the dore, the maide spied him, and cryed hir Maister: so that the pooze Gentlewoman for verie shift, was faine to put me in a dyie-fatte of feathers that stood in an ould Chamber, and there I was faine to tarrie while he was in bed and a sleepe; and then the maide let me out and I departed.

But it is no matter, tis but a chaunce, and I hope to crie quittance with him ere it be long: as how quoth Mutio? Harry thus, quoth Lionello: he sent me worde by hir Maide this day, that vpon thursday next the ould Churle suppeth with a patient of his a mile out of Pisa, and then I feare not but to quitte him for all: It is well quoth Mutio: Fortune bee your friend: I thanke you quoth Lionello, and so after a litle moze prattle they departed.

To bee shorte, Thursdaye came, and about sixe of the Clocke sooth goes Mutio, no further then a friends house of his, from whence hee might descrie who went into his house, straight hee sawe Lionello enter in; and after goes hee, insomuch that hee was scarcelie sitten downe, befoze the Maide cryed
out

out againe, my maister comes : the goodwife that before
 had prouided for afterclaps ; had found out a priue place
 betwene two feelings of a plancher, and there she thrust
 Lionello; & hir husband came sweating, what newes, quoth
 she, dyines you home againe so sone husband? Marrye
 swete wife quoth he, a fearefull dreame that I had this
 night which came to my remembrance, & that was this:
 me thought there was a villeine that came secretly into
 my house with a naked poinard in his hand, and bid him-
 selfe: but I could not find the place, with that mine nose
 bled, and I came bakke; and by the grace of God I will
 seeke euery cozner in the house for the quiet of my minde.
 Marry I pray you doe husband, quoth she: with that he
 lockt in all the doores, and began to search euery chamber,
 euery hole, euery chest, euery tub, the very well, he stabb
 euery fetherbed througb, and made hauock like a mad
 man, which made him thinke all was in vaine, and he
 begā to blame his eies that thought they saw that which
 they did not: vpon this he rest halfe lunatike, & all night
 he was very wakefull, that towards the mozning he fell
 into a dead sleape, and then was Lionello conueighed
 away.

In the mozning when Mutio wakened, hee thought
 how by no meanes hee should be able to take Lionello
 fardy; yet he laid in his head a most dangerous plot, and
 that was this: Wife quoth he, I must the next munday
 ride to Vyconsa to visit an ould patient of mine, till my
 returne, which will be some tendayes, I will haue thee
 stay at our little graunge house in the countrey: marry
 very well content husband, quoth she: with that he kist
 hir, and was very pleasant, as though he had suspected
 nothing, and away he sings to the Church: where hee
 meetes Lionello: What sir quoth he what newes, is your
 mistresse yours in possession? no, a plague of the old slaue
 quoth he; I thinke he is either a witch or els woorkes by
 Magick: for I can no sone enter in the doores but he is
 at

at my bathe, and so he was againe yesternight: for I was
 not warme in my seate befoze the maide cried, my maister
 comes; and then was the poze soule faine to conueigh me
 between two seelings of a chamber in a fit place for the pur-
 pose: where I laught hartely to my self, to see how he sought
 euery corner, ransackt euery tub, and stabb euery feather-
 bed; but in vaine, I was safe enough till the morning, and
 then when he was fast a sleape, I lipt out. Fortune frown es
 on you quoth Murio: I but I hope quoth Lionello this is
 the last time; and now she will begin to smile: for on mon-
 day next he rides to Vicenza, and his wife lies at a grange
 house a little of the towne, and there in his absence I will
 reuenge al forspassed mistofortunes: God send it to be so quoth
 Murio, & so toke his leaue. These two louers longd for mon-
 day, & at last it came, early in the morning Murio hozt him-
 selfe, and his wife, his maide, and a man, and no moze, and
 away he rides to his grange house; where after he had broke
 his fast he toke his leaue, & away towards Vicenza. He rode
 not far ere by a false way he returned into a thicket, & there
 with a company of countrie peasants lay in an ambuscado
 to take the yong Gentleman: in the afternone comes Li-
 onello galloping, and as soone as he came within sight of the
 house, he sent backe his horse by his boy, & went easily a foot,
 & there at the very entry was enterteind by Margaret, who
 led him by the staires, and conuaid him into hir bedchamber
 saying he was welcome into so meane a cottage: but quoth
 she, now I hope fortune shal not enuie y purify of our loues.
 Alas alas mistresse cried the maid, heer is my maister, & 100.
 men with him, with bills & staves: we are befraid quoth Li-
 onello, & I am but a dead man: feare not quoth she, but follow
 me, and straight she carried him downe into a low parlor;
 where stood an ould rotten chest full of writings, she put
 him into that, and couered him with onso papers and euy-
 dences, and went to the gate to meete hir husband: why sig-
 nor Murio, what meanes this hurly burly quoth she & vile &
 shamelesse strumpet as thou art, thou shalt know by and by
 quoth he. Where is thy loue: all we haue watch him & seene
 him

he enter in: now quoth he, shall neither thy tub of feathers,
 nor thy seling serue, for perishe he shall with fire, or els fall
 into my hands. Doe thy worst iealous soles quoth shee, I aske
 thee no fauour: with that in a rage he beset the house round,
 and then set fire on it. Oh in what a perplexitie was poore
 Lionello that was shut in a Chest, and the fire about his
 eares: and how was Margaret passionate that knew hir lo-
 uer in such danger: yet shee made light of the matter, and as
 one in a rage called hir maide to hir, & said; Come on wench,
 seeing thy Master mad with iealousie hath set the house & al
 my liuing on fire, I wil be reuengd vpon him, helpe me here
 to lift this olde Chest where all his writings & deeds are, let
 that burne first, and as soone as I see that on fire I wil walke
 towards my friends; for the olde soles will be beggard and I
 will refuse him. Mutio that knew al his obligations and sta-
 tutes lay there puld hir backe, and bad two of his men car-
 ry the Chest into the field, and see it were safe, him selfe stan-
 ding by and seeing his house burnd downe sticke and stone.
 When quieted in his minde he went home with his wife, &
 began to flatter hir, thinking assuredly that he had burnd hir
 paramour; causing his Chest to be carried in a Cart to his
 house at Pisa. Margaret impatient went to hir mothers, and
 complainde to hir and to hir byethzen of the iealousie of hir
 husband: who maintained it to bee true, and desired but a
 daies respite to proue it: well hee was bidden to supper the
 next night at hir mothers, shee thinking to make hir daugh-
 ter and him friends againe. In the meane time he to his
 wonted walke in the Church, & there prater expectatione
 he found Lionello walking: wondering at this, hee straight
 enquires what newes? What newes Maister Doctor quoth
 he, & he fell in a great laughing; in saith yesternay I scapt a
 scowring: For syrha I went to the grange house, where I
 was appointed to come, and I was no sooner gotten by the
 Chamber, but the magicall billethe hir husband beset the
 house with bills and stauies, and that he might be sure no sel-
 ling nor corner should shrowde me, hee set the house on fire:

and

and so burnt it downe to the ground. Why quoth Mutio and how did you escape? alas quoth I, well fare a womans wit, she conneighed me into an ould chest ful of writings, which she knew hir husband durst not burne, and so was I saved and brought to Pyssa, and yesternight by hir maide let home to my lodging. This quoth he, is the pleasantest iest that euer I heard: and vpon this I haue a sute to you, I am this night bidden foorth to supper, you shall be my guest, onely I will craue so much fauour, as after supper for a pleasant spoote, to make relation what successe you haue had in your lones: for that I will not sticke quoth he, and so he carried Lionello to his mother in lawes house with him, and discovered to his wiues brethren who he was, & how at supper he would disclose the whole matter: for quoth he, he knowes not that I am Margarets husband: at this all the brethren had him welcome, & so did the mother to, & Margaret she was kept out of sight. Supper time being come, they fell to their victuals, & Lionello was carrolld vnto by Mutio, who was very pleasant to draw him to a merry humoz, that he might to the full discourse the effect & fortunes of his loue. Supper being ended, Mutio requested him to tell to the Gentlemen, what had hapned betwene him & his mistresse. Lionello with a smiling countenance, began to describe his Mistresse, the house, and streete where she dwelt, how he fell in loue with hir, & how he vsed the counsell of this Doctor, who in all his affaires was his secretarie. Margaret heard all this with great feare, & when he came at the last point, she caused a cup of wine to be giue him by one of hir sisters, wherein was a ring that he had giuen Margaret; as he had told how he escaped burning, and was ready to confirme all for a troath, the Gentlewoman drunke to him: who taking the cup and seeing the ring, hauing a quick wit & a reaching head, spide the fetch, and perceiued that all this while this was his lones husband, to whom he had reuealed these escapes: at this drinking the wine, and swallowing the ring into his mouth, he went forward. Gentlemē quoth he, how

like you of my loves and my fortunes? well quoth the Gentleman, I pray you is it true: as true quoth he, as if I would be so simple as to reveale what I did to Margarets husband; for know you Gentlemen, that I knew this Mutio to be his husband whom I notified to be my lover, and for that he was generally known through Pisa to be a jealous fellow: therefore with these tales I brought him into this paradise, which indeed are follies of mine owne braine: for trust me by the faith of a gentleman, I neuer spake to the woman, was never in his company, neither doe I know him if I see her. At this they all fell in a laughing at Mutio, who was ashamed that Lionello had so scoffed him: but all was well, they were made friends, but the iest went so to his heart, that he shortly after died, and Lionello enjoyed the Ladie, and for that they two were the death of the owld man, now are they plagued in purgatorie, and he whips them with Nettles.

Asone as I had passed over these two of Pisa, I looked about and saw many more, as mad and pleasant as the rest: but my time was come that I must to the iudge to be censured, what punishment I should have my selfe for all the mad wanton tricks, that I did when I was alive, faith at last because they knew I was a brave companion, they appointed that I should sit and play Jigs all day on my Taber to the ghosts without ceasing, which hath brought me into such use, that I now play far better then when I was alive: for prove thou shalt heare a ho:nepipe: with that putting his pipe to his mouth, the first stroake he strucke I started, and with that I waked, I saw such concourse of people through the fields, that I knew the play was done, wherupon rising up, and smiling at my dreame, and after supper toke my pen, and as nere as I could set it downe, but not halfe so pleasantly as he spoake it, but howsoever, take it in good part, and so farewell.

FINIS.

